

Award-winning posters pay tribute to life lost too soon

Memorial scholarships awarded to pair of girls at recent Coventry school committee meeting

KENDRA LEIGH MILLER
 kmiller@ricentral.com

COVENTRY — Kaci Perry, a student at the Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School and Mariya Furtado, as student at Coventry High School, were honored at a recent Coventry School Committee meeting for their contribution to bringing awareness to the plight of relationship abuse through artwork for the 2014 High School Poster Contest through the Lindsay Ann Burke Memorial/Scholarship Fund.

The fund is a non-profit organization founded to honor her life and to break the silence and end relationship violence.

Burke was 23 years old when she was mur-

dered by her boyfriend, said her mother Ann at the committee meeting.

“She was an education major and came from a family of educators,” she said. “We believe she would want us to break the silence about ending relationship abuse through education.”

The poster contest theme for middle school students this year was “Qualities of a Healthy Relationship.”

Perry’s sponsoring teacher was Carol Jeranian. Perry received a \$150 award.

The theme for high school students was “Break the Cycle of Violence,” focusing on what a teen can do to end an abusive relationship.”

See POSTERS, Page A-3



Kendra Leigh Miller • Daily Times

Ann Burke with Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School student Kaci Perry.



Kendra Leigh Miller • Daily Times

Burke with Coventry High School student Mariya Furtado

Posters earn pair scholarships

Continued from Page A-1

Furtado's sponsoring teacher was Stephanie Allard. Furtado received a \$250 award.

"One in five high school girls is physically or sexually hurt by a dating partner," said Burke as she shared a few eye-opening statistics with those who attended. "Only 33 percent of teens who have been in or know about an abusive dating relationship actually told anyone about it."

Burke also explained that teens also learn about relationship violence through their health curriculum.

"It's such a wonderful tribute to your daughter and something that can be in our curriculum," said Coventry School Committee Chairwoman Kathy Patenaude. "I can't imag-

ine how it feels for you to do this and I respect the students for their work with the posters."

Committee Vice Chairwoman Judy Liner also commended Burke and the students for their hard work and dedication for bringing awareness to the issue.

"It's a beautiful tribute to your daughter," said Coventry School Committee member Dave Florio.

Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School Principal Arthur Lisi said not only does it spread awareness but it really showcases our art program and the strength in our school regarding the students' relationships toward each other and their level of respect.

Burke was so proud to present the students and congratulate them on a job so well done.